

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery comprising a
2 positive electrode and a negative electrode capable of occluding
3 and releasing lithium and a nonaqueous electrolyte, wherein the
4 negative electrode comprises a foamed metal containing silicon
5 therein as an active material.

1 2. The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to
2 claim 1, wherein the foamed metal comprises copper or nickel.

1 3. The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to
2 claim 1, wherein the foamed metal containing silicon therein is
3 prepared by impregnation or coating of a foamed metal with a slurry
4 comprising silicon particles and a binder.

1 4. The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to
2 claim 2, wherein the foamed metal containing silicon therein is
3 prepared by impregnation or coating of a foamed metal with a slurry
4 comprising silicon particles and a binder.

1 5. The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to
2 claim 1, wherein the negative electrode comprises the foamed metal
3 and a metal current collector, and the foamed metal is adjacent to

4 a side or both sides of the metal current collector.

1 6. The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to
2 claim 2, wherein the negative electrode comprises the foamed metal
3 and a metal current collector, and the foamed metal is adjacent to
4 a side or both sides of the metal current collector.

1 7. The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to
2 claim 3, wherein the negative electrode comprises the foamed metal
3 and a metal current collector, and the foamed metal is adjacent to
4 a side or both sides of the metal current collector.

1 8. The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to
2 claim 4, wherein the negative electrode comprises the foamed metal
3 and a metal current collector, and the foamed metal is adjacent to
4 a side or both sides of the metal current collector.

1 9. The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to
2 claim 5, wherein the foamed metal and the metal current collector
3 are secured together by welding or an adhesive agent, or are held
4 adjacent to each other by structural pressure of the battery.

1 10. The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to
2 claim 6, wherein the foamed metal and the metal current collector

3 are secured together by welding or an adhesive agent, or are held
4 adjacent to each other by structural pressure of the battery.

1 11. The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to
2 claim 7, wherein the foamed metal and the metal current collector
3 are secured together by welding or an adhesive agent, or are held
4 adjacent to each other by structural pressure of the battery.

1 12. The nonaqueous electrolyte secondary battery according to
2 claim 8, wherein the foamed metal and the metal current collector
3 are secured together by welding or an adhesive agent, or are held
4 adjacent to each other by structural pressure of the battery.